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Sweet Treats! candy-coated **NAIL ART**

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Which Came First? The Nails or the Cupcakes?



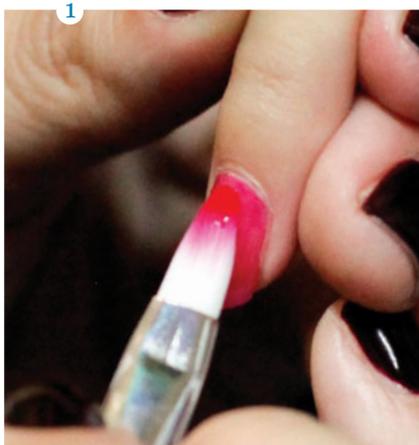
Watson

When Star Nail's global education director Elaine Watson came in last fall to do a few covers for us, we were really excited about this design she showed

us. She originally created it for a shoot she did for Star and as soon as we saw the simple dots, one thing came to mind: Sprinkles Cupcakes. (For those of you not in one of the cities where Sprinkles is available, let me just tell you that the cupcakes are delicious.)

The signature of these cupcakes is the dot on top of the icing — and it just happened to look a lot like Elaine's nail design. She created this look using Star's Eco Soak Off UV Gel Polish. And we think the nails are just as delicious as the cupcakes.

Using different-sized points (brush handles and paper clips) Elaine came up with an interesting technique for creating simple gel nail art using soak-off gels.



Here's how you can do these nails:

1. Prep the nails. Apply a coat of Basecoat Gel and cure for 30 seconds. Apply Star Nail's Eco Soak Off UV Gel Polish in Garden of Eden Red to the nails. Cure in a UV light for two minutes.
2. Apply another coat of Garden of Eden Red to the nails and cure for two minutes.
3. To make the color dots, first apply Flamingo Pink. (This should be your biggest dot.) To do this, use the end of a large brush handle dipped into the gel and press it onto the nail. It leaves a perfect circle.
4. While Flamingo is still wet, use the end of a smaller brush handle dipped in white for the next dot. Be careful when you pull your handle away from the white. Make sure the "gel string" falls centered and doesn't flop over your Flamingo Pink or Red.
5. Lastly, while the other two gel dots are still wet, dip a paper clip tip into Golden Aubergine and leave a tiny center dot. Again, be careful not to let the gel string flop.
6. Now cure this for three minutes in the UV Lamp. Be sure the dots are not too thick or you'll need to cure much longer. Use Finishing Wipe to remove the sticky layer from all of the nails. Apply Eco Sealer.



These Sprinkles cupcakes were not the inspiration for the February cover nails. But when Star Nails' Elaine Watson e-mailed us a picture of some nails she created we couldn't think of anything else. We knew it would be a perfect combination for our candy-coated Valentine's Day cover. (For more candy-inspired Valentine's Day nail art turn to page 128.)

